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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Confirmation No.: 4266

Akihiko CHIBA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1742

Serial Number: 10/612,039

Examiner: Michael P. Alexander

Filed: July 3, 2003

Attorney Docket No.: 108421-00075

For: PRECIPITATION HARDENED Co-Ni BASED HEAT-RESISTANT ALLOY AND  
PRODUCTION METHOD THEREFOR

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Mail Stop Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 20, 2006

Sir:

Prior to further examination of this application in accordance with the Request for Continued Examination filed on September 7, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 7.